Amendments to and Listing of the Claims:

Please amend claim 1 and cancel claim 13 and claims 16-27 without prejudice to the filing of a divisional application so that the claims read as follows:

1. (currently amended) A stimulation electrode comprising an electrically conducting electrode base member (2, 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2e, 2f, 2g) formed of at least one metal selected from the group consisting of gold, carbon, platinum, iridium, platinum-iridium alloys, and stainless steel, wherein the electrode base member is partially covered with an electrically insulating ceramic layer, wherein the ceramic layer (3, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, 3f, 3g) has a thickness of about 1 nm to about 20 μm and is formed of an oxide and/or an oxynitride of at least one metal selected from the group consisting of titanium, niobium, tantalum, zirconium, aluminum, and silicon, and wherein the electrode base member (2, 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2e, 2f, 2g) is further at least partially coated with an electrically conducting layer (4b, 4c, 4d, 4e, 4f, 4g) comprising at least one material selected from the group consisting of titanium nitride, niobium nitride, tantalum nitride, zirconium nitride, aluminum nitride, silicon nitride, vanadium nitride, iridium oxide, and an alloy of platinum and iridium, wherein the iridium portion of the alloy is $\geq$ 21 wt. % and the platinum portion of the alloy is $\geq$ about 100 ppm.

2. (canceled)

3. (original) The stimulation electrode according to claim 1, wherein the ceramic layer (3, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, 3f, 3g) is arranged on the electrically conducting layer (4c).

4. (original) The stimulation electrode according to claim 1, wherein the ceramic layer (3, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, 3f, 3g) is arranged adjacent the electrically conducting layer on the electrode base member (2, 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2e, 2f, 2g).

5. (original) The stimulation electrode according to claim 1, wherein the electrically conducting layer (4b, 4d, 4e, 4f, 4g) is formed of titanium nitride.

6. (original) The stimulation electrode according to claim 5, wherein the electrically conducting layer (4b, 4d, 4e, 4f, 4g) of titanium nitride is at least partially covered with at least one oxidation protection layer (5d, 5e, 5f, 5g) on its side facing away from the electrode base member (2, 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2e, 2f, 2g).

7. (original) The stimulation electrode according to claim 6, wherein the ceramic layer (3, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, 3f, 3g) is arranged on the at least one oxidation protection layer (5d, 5e, 5f, 5g).

8. (original) The stimulation electrode according to claim 6, wherein the ceramic layer (3, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, 3f, 3g) is arranged adjacent the electrically conducting layer (4d, 4e, 4f, 4g) of titanium nitride and the at least one oxidation protection layer (5d, 5e, 5f, 5g) on the electrode base member (2, 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2e, 2f, 2g).

9. (previously presented) The stimulation electrode according to claim 6, wherein the ceramic layer (3,3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, 3f, 3g) is arranged adjacent to the at least one oxidation protection layer (5d, 5e, 5f, 5g) on the electrically conducting layer (4b, 4d, 4e, 4f, 4g) of titanium nitride.

10. (original) The stimulation electrode according to claim 6, wherein the oxidation protection layer (5d, 5e, 5f, 5g) is formed of at least one element selected from the group consisting of platinum, iridium, and gold.

11. (original) The stimulation electrode according to claim 6, wherein the oxidation protection layer (5d, 5e, 5f, 5g) is formed of at least one compound selected from the group consisting of oxides, carbides, nitrides, and polymers, and wherein the at least one oxidation protection layer (5d, 5e, 5f, 5g) reduces the impedance of the electrode base member (2, 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2e, 2f, 2g) coated with the electrically conducting layer (4d, 4e, 4f, 4g) of titanium nitride, or at most increases the impedance to a value which is smaller than the impedance of the uncoated electrode base member (2, 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2e, 2f, 2g).

12. (original) The stimulation electrode according to claim 6, wherein the oxidation protection layer (5d, 5e, 5f, 5g) has a thickness in a range of about 500 nm to about 5 μm.

13. (canceled)

14. (original) The stimulation electrode according to claim 1, wherein the ceramic layer (3, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, 3f, 3g) has a surface closed in itself.

15. (original) The stimulation electrode according to claim 1, wherein the ceramic layer (3, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, 3f, 3g) has plurality of independent surfaces.

16-27. (canceled)

28. (previously presented) The stimulation electrode according to claim 1, wherein the electrode is implantable in a human.

29 (previously presented) The stimulation electrode according to claim 28, wherein the electrode is implanted as a cardiac pacemaker electrode or a neuro-stimulation electrode.